Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS Authorised Local Chemists.

Opening Medicine Shops in Rural Areas

1113. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only ten per cent of villages in the country have medicine shops; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to issue more licences for opening new medicine shops in rural areas only?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and rules made thereunder the responsibility of granting sale licences to medicine shops for sale of drugs rests with Licensing Authorities appointed by the State Governments. The availability of a medicine shop in a particular village/area generally depends upon its economic viability in terms of sales and presence of medical practitioners in that area who prescribe drugs.

(b) There is no restriction under the law for opening medicine shops in rural areas. The rules allow for an itinerant vendor to establish a shop in a village or town having population of five thousand or less, for sale of limited categories of drugs without the services of a registered pharmacist and the fee for such a licence is Rs. 10/- only. The said rules further provide for sale of certain house hold remedies without a sale licence in a village having population of not more than one thousand persons provided there is no licensed dealer in such a village under the Act.

Recommendation of Drugs Consultative Committee

1114. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drugs Consultative Committee had recommended for a centralized regulatory system to deal with technical, legal and lab-related aspects of this sector;